

Curbside recycling begins in Columbus, Ohio

April 13 -- It's official: The citywide curbside recycling program is underway in Columbus, Ohio.

The first of 57,000 blue recycling carts was delivered yesterday by Mayor Michael B. Coleman to the winners of a city-run contest to receive Columbus' first cart, the Columbus Dispatch **reported.**

The rest of the 64-gallon recycling carts will be delivered through May 12 to homes that currently put out their yard waste on Mondays, the newspaper said. Starting June 4, recyclables will be picked up every other Monday; yard waste will be picked up on alternate weeks.

Columbus' new recycling program will be implemented throughout the city by February 2013, the newspaper said. Columbus is beginning with four zones of the city and will add four more until about 227,000 households have recycling carts.

The first crop of carts cost \$9.5 million, the newspaper said, and should last about 10 years. Rumpke Consolidated Companies Inc. has a \$2.6 million contract with the city to pick up the recyclables. The contract will be \$2.9 million next year when the program is at complete operation.

Officials with the city told the newspaper that recycling 25% of the material that would normally go to a landfill could save Columbus as much as \$3 million per year in trash fees at the county landfill.

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